



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND DR. EGGMAN CAME TO OUR WORLD WHEN ONE OF THE DOCTOR'S MACHINES BACKFIRED! SONIC HAS BECOME A WORLDWIDE HERO! DOCTOR EGGMAN IS USUALLY HIS ENEMY, BUT TONIGHT, HE'S DISGUISED AS LUCHADOR EL GRAN GORDO!

WHAT HAPPENED, EL GRAN GORDO? EARLIER TONIGHT, WE WATCHED YOU WIN THE CHAMPION BELT! *



TITLE MISMATCH

Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!

Inks: TERRY AUSTIN • Colors: JASON JENSEN • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN

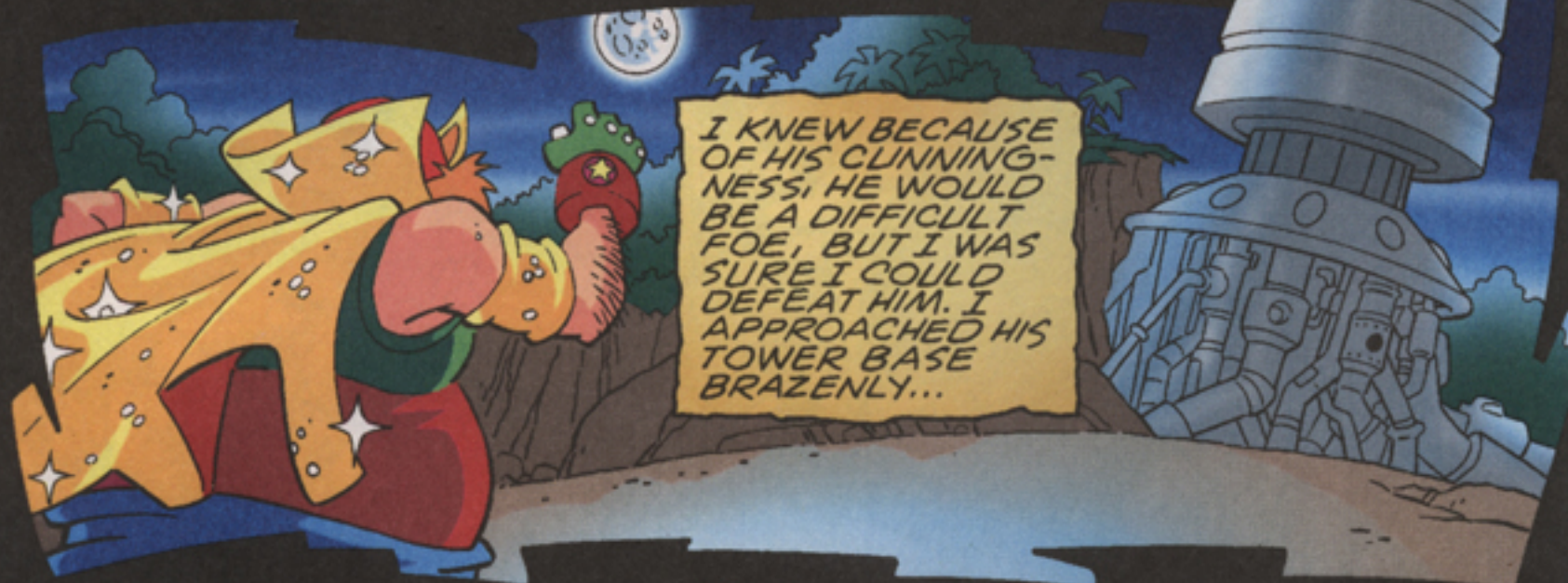
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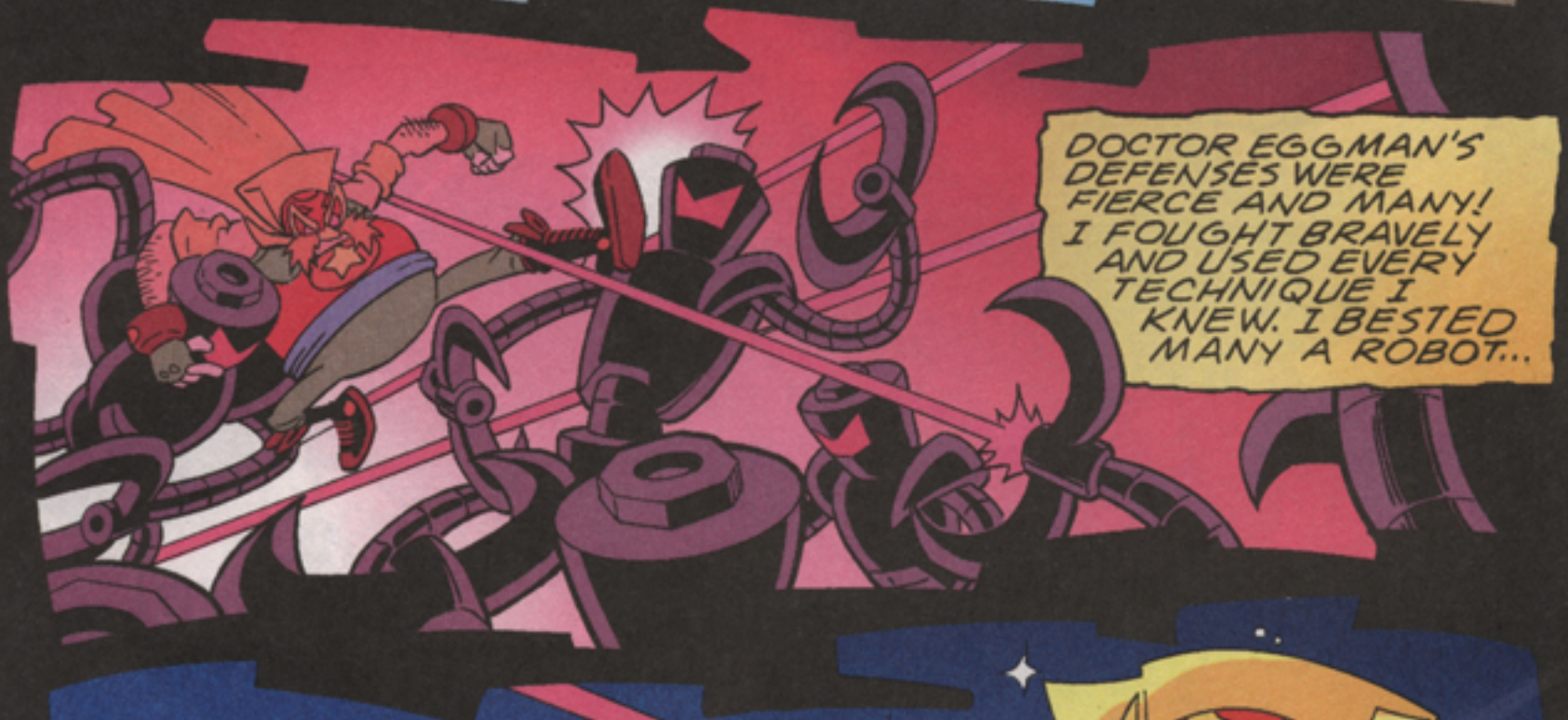
I HAD JUST CONQUERED ANDES THE GINORMOUS AND WAS FULL OF CONFIDENCE. I DECIDED TO CONTINUE MY WINNING STREAK AND TAKE DOWN THAT HANDSOME GENIUS DOCTOR EGGMAN.



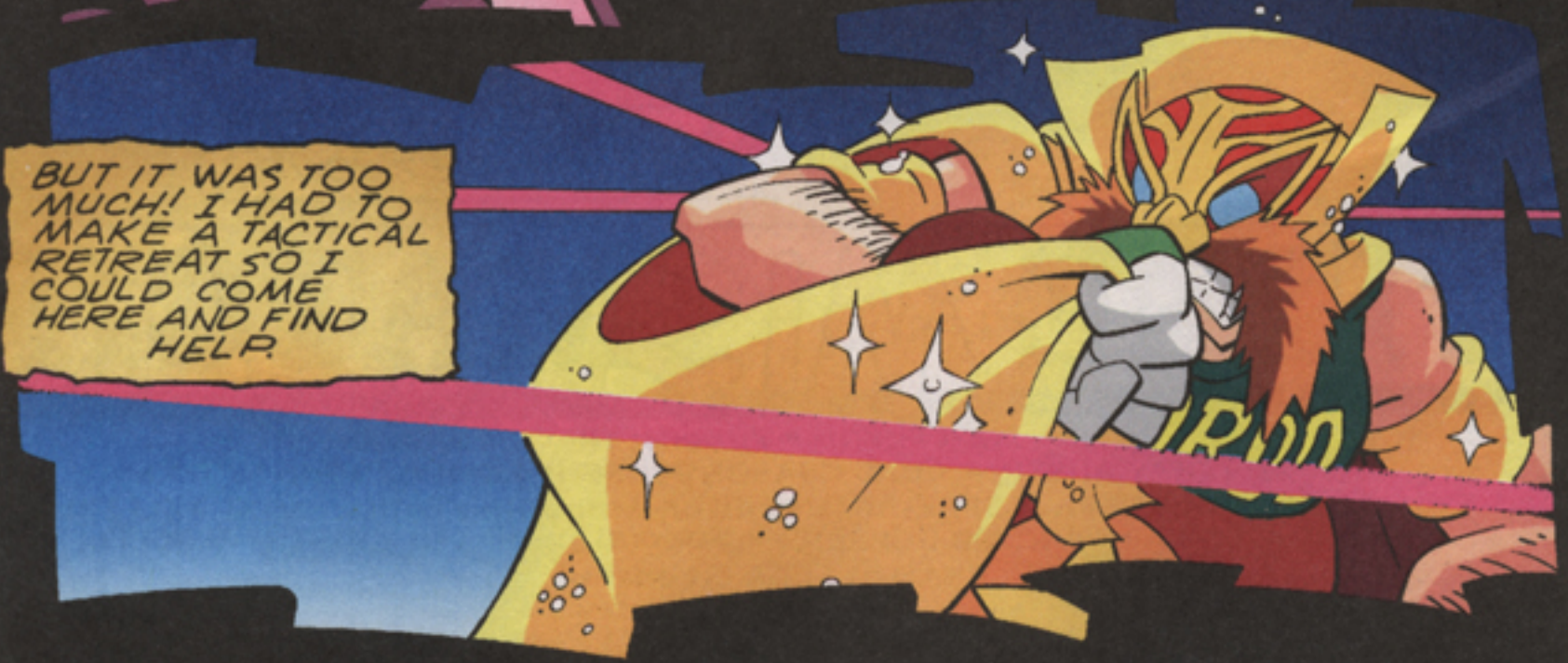
I KNEW BECAUSE OF HIS CLUNNINGNESS, HE WOULD BE A DIFFICULT FOE, BUT I WAS SURE I COULD DEFEAT HIM. I APPROACHED HIS TOWER BASE BRAZENLY...



DOCTOR EGGMAN'S DEFENSES WERE FIERCE AND MANY! I FOUGHT BRAVELY AND USED EVERY TECHNIQUE I KNEW. I BESTED MANY A ROBOT...



BUT IT WAS TOO MUCH! I HAD TO MAKE A TACTICAL RETREAT SO I COULD COME HERE AND FIND HELP.



DON'T YOU WORRY, GRAN GORDO. I'M SURE I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY LAB THAT CAN HELP YOU!



WHILE YOU GUYS PLAN YOUR ATTACK, I'LL SHOW YOU MY SCRAP-BOOK! IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



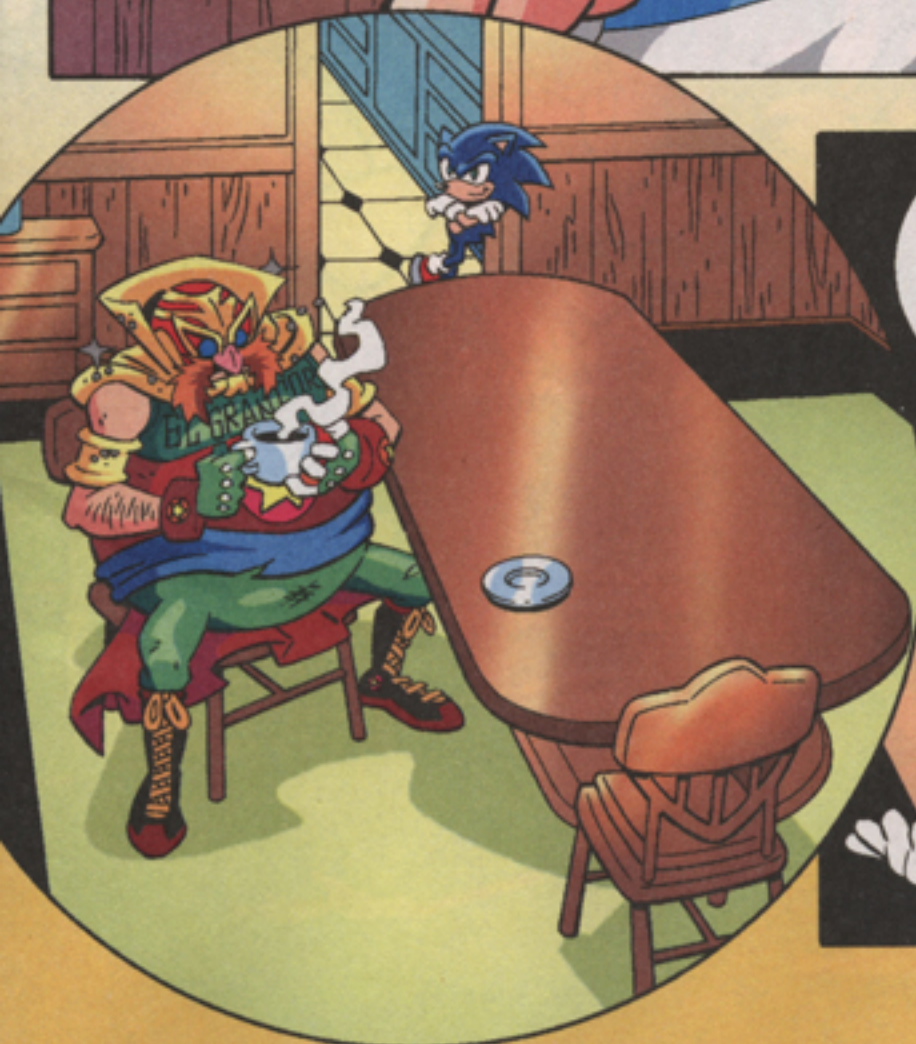
AND AFTER THAT, WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH MY YEAR-BOOK TOGETHER. I *KNOW* WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!



ALL RIGHT, EGGMAN. WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED?



ARGH...





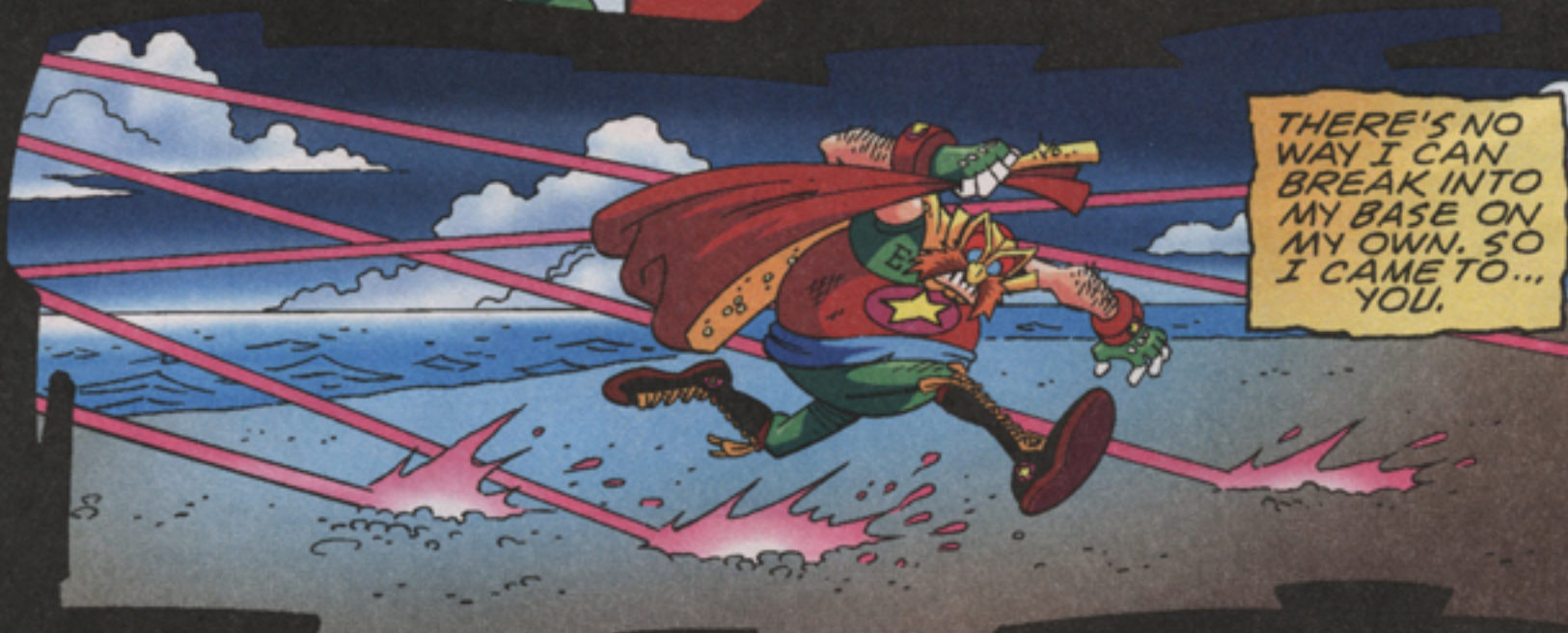
I BARELY BEAT THAT
ANDES OAF IN THE
FIGHT. I WAS TIRED,
AND JUST WANTED
TO GO HOME.



I'D FORGOTTEN
I'D BUILT A ROBOT
TO LOOK LIKE ME.
BOKKUN WAS
SUPPOSED TO USE
IT TO PRETEND TO
BE ME SO I COULD
BE EL GRAN GORDO
AGAIN.



BUT HE DIDN'T
STOP PLAYING
THE PART! I
WAS BRANDED
AN INTRUDER
AND WAS
ATTACKED
ON MY OWN
DOORSTEP!



THERE'S NO
WAY I CAN
BREAK INTO
MY BASE ON
MY OWN. SO
I CAME TO...
YOU.

THAT'S MORE
LIKE IT. I'LL
HELP YOU ONLY
IF YOU PROMISE
TO NEVER BE
GRAN GORDO
AGAIN.

FINE.
EXTORTIONIST.

WITH THAT
SETTLED--
LET'S GO
INVADE A
BASE!

AWW!

MUST
YOU
GO SO
SOON?

I WISH
I COULD STAY,
SEÑORITA.
BUT EVIL
WILL NOT
WAIT FOR
PLEASANTRIES.
I WE MUST
PRISA!

YEAH!
GO GET
HIM, GRAN
GORDO!

COME
ALONG,
HEDGEHOG.
WE HAVE
TO MAKE
PREPARA-
TIONS.

"PREPARATIONS"
?

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
HELP ME,
YOU HAVE
TO DO IT
RIGHT.

SOON...

HERE WE ARE.
ARE YOU READY,
SIDE-KICK?

NO.

I LOOK
RIDICULOUS.
AND DON'T CALL
ME YOUR "SIDE-
KICK."

NONSENSE!
YOU MAKE
A FINE
LUCHADOR!

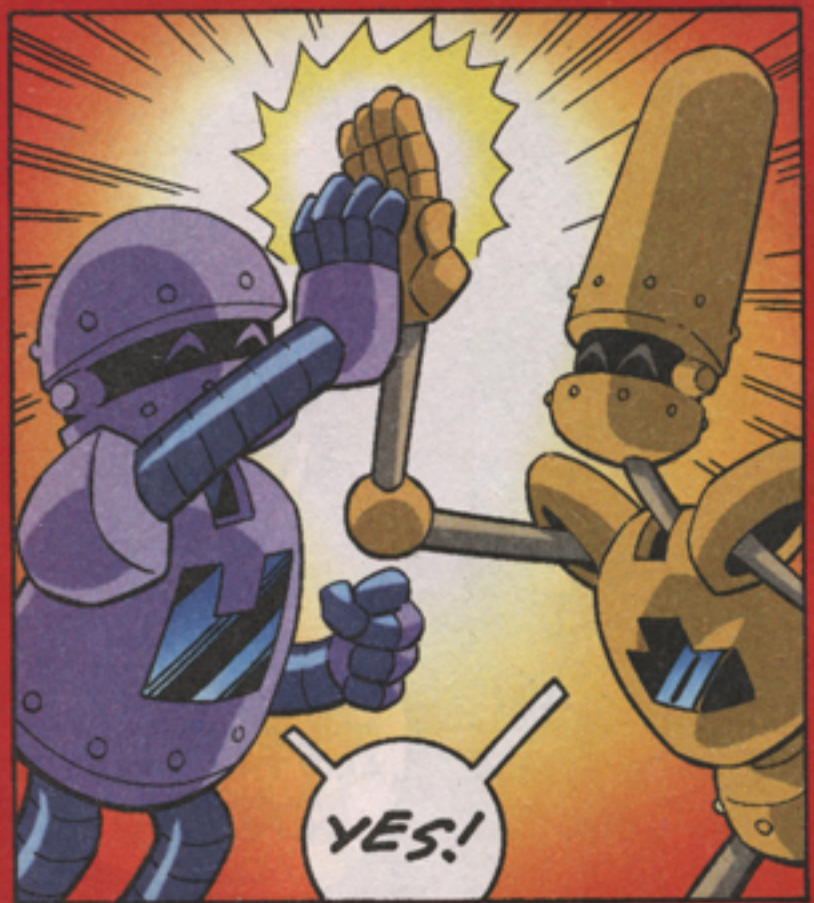
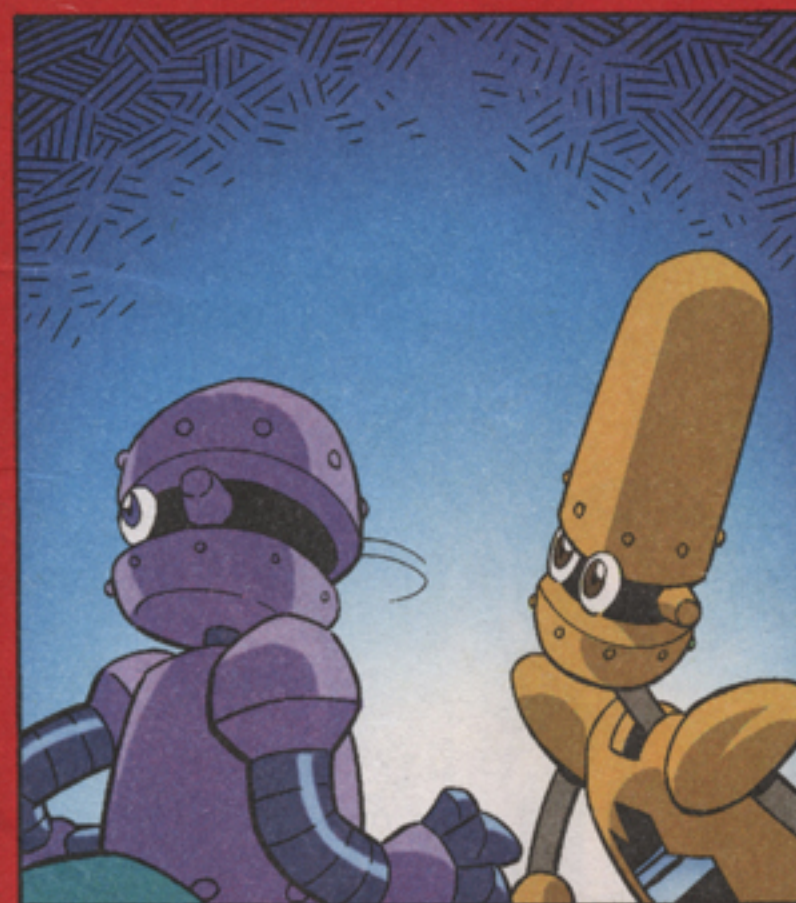
SO--HOW
ARE WE
GETTING
IN?

I'M HOPING
THEY THINK THEY
DROVE ME OFF
FOR A WHILE AND
HAVE LET THEIR
GUARD DOWN.
SO WE SNEAK
IN.

FOLLOW
ME,
CHUM!

DON'T
CALL
ME
"CHUM"!







THIS IS WONDERFUL! WITH BOKKUN AS THE DOCTOR, WE GET A FREE VACATION!

ALL BOKKUN DOES IS EAT JUNK FOOD! WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT!

BREED
BREED
BREED

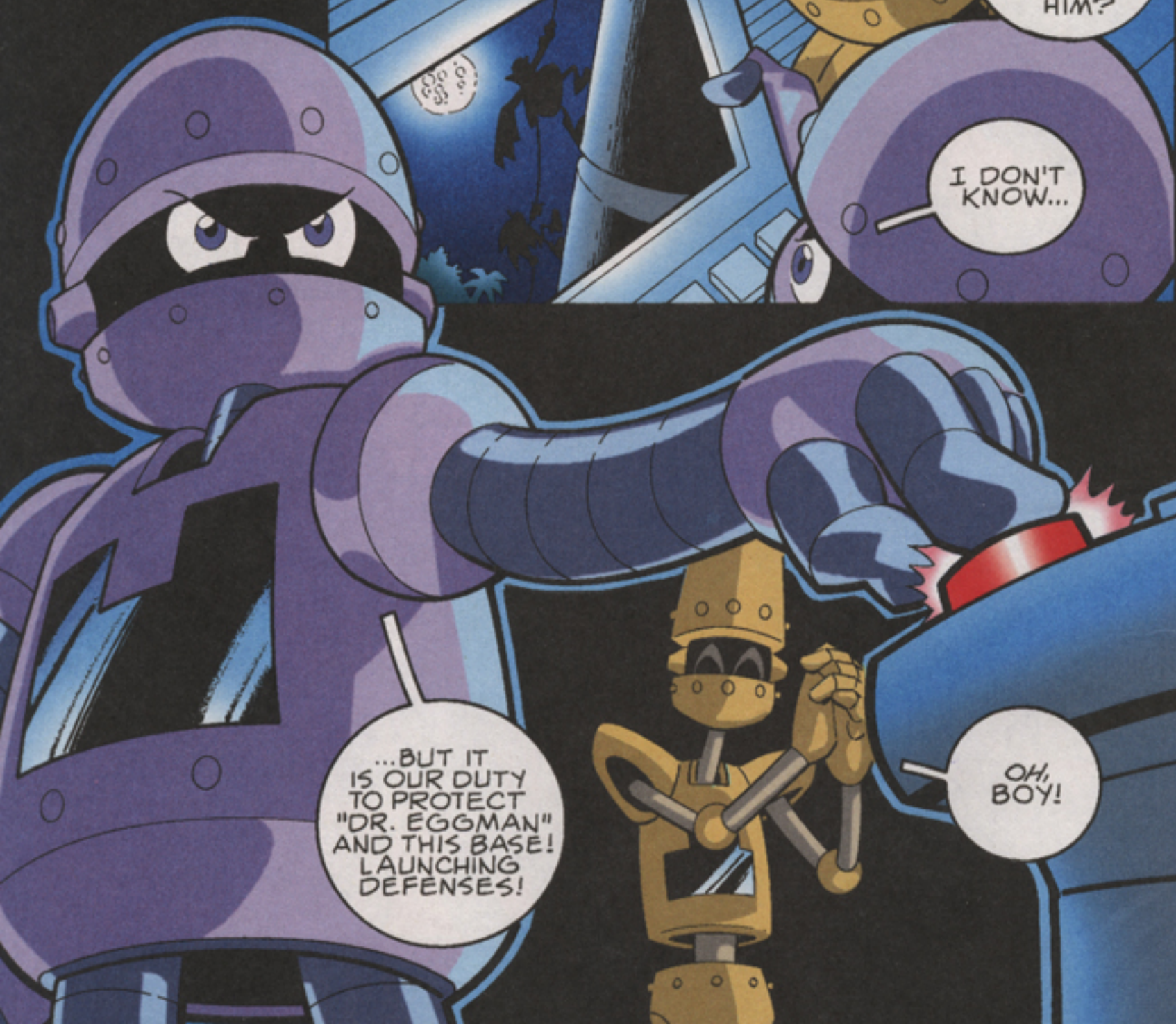
ALERT

UH-OH.



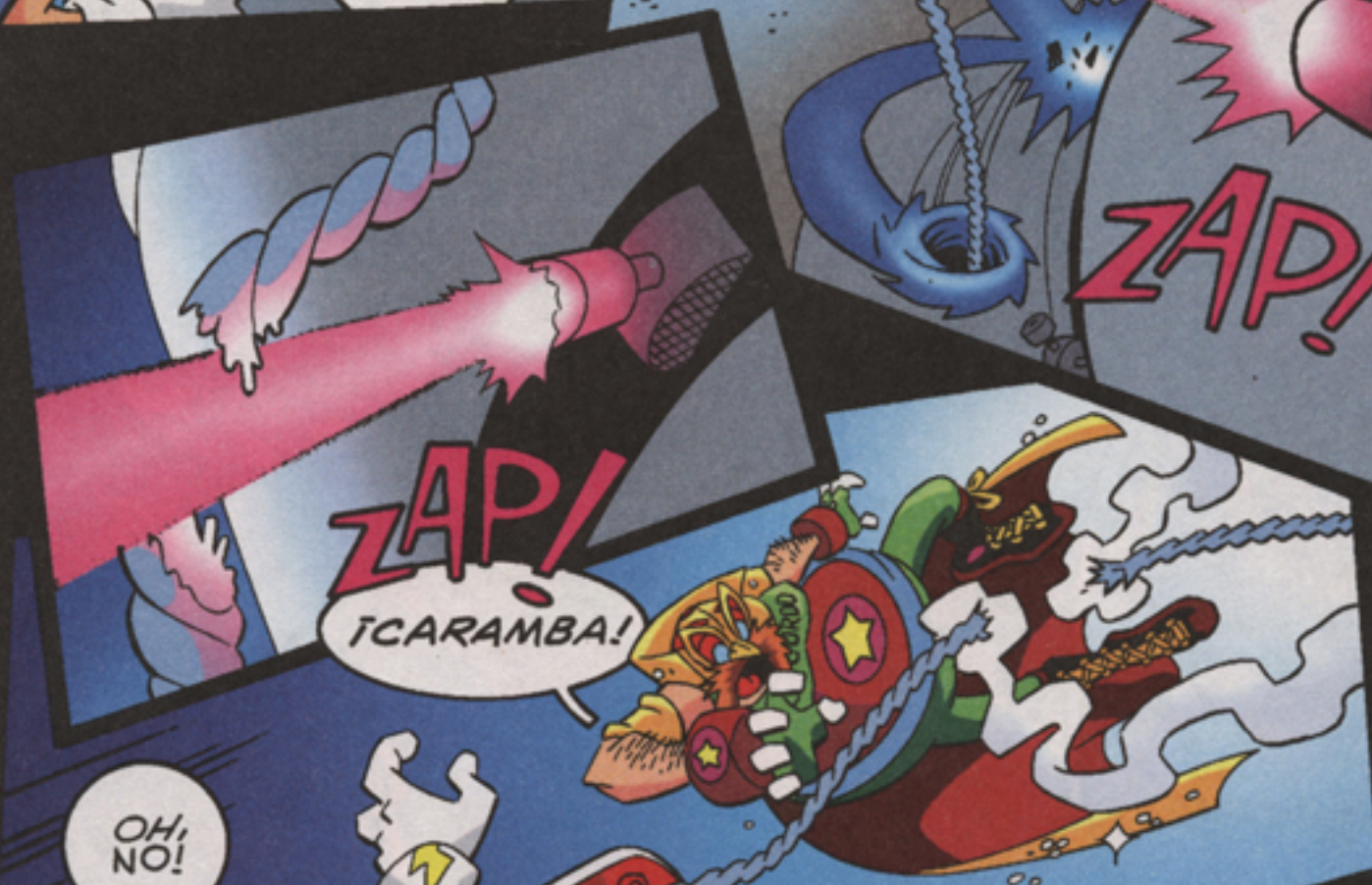
HE'S BACK ALREADY! AND WHO'S THE LITTLE GUY WITH HIM?

I DON'T KNOW...



...BUT IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT "DR. EGGMAN" AND THIS BASE! LAUNCHING DEFENSES!

OH, BOY!



BLAST IT ALL!
THAT WAS MY
ONLY ROPE.

RELAX, DOC.
I'VE GOT A PLAN.
I JUST NEED A
RUNNING
START.

ZOOOOO!!!

A
RUNNING
START
...?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!
NO!
STOP!

WOO-HOO!
DON'T STOP!
WEEEEEE!



CRASH!



THERE
IS NOTHING
THAT CAN STOP
EL GRAN GORDO
AND EL RAPIDO
AZULE!

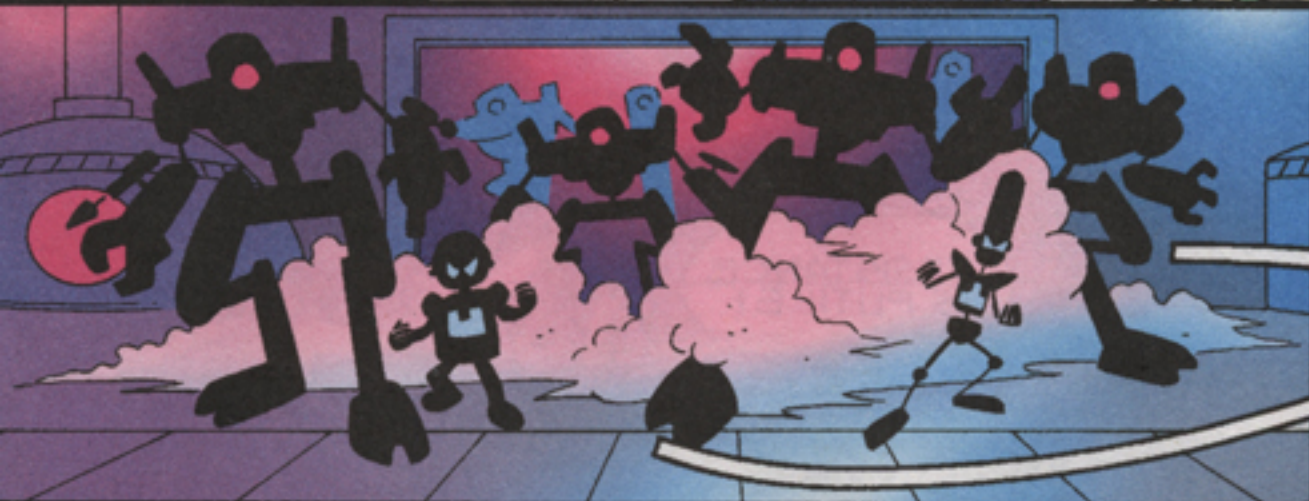
NEED A
BREATHER...!
NOT...RAPIDO
AZULE...



YOU'VE
DONE WELL
TO MAKE IT
THIS FAR,
DOUBLE-G.



BUT YOU
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
DOCTOR
EGGMAN'S
FORCES!



GO,
BADNIK
ARMY!

A comic book page featuring Sonic the Hedgehog in a Luchador (Mexican wrestler) costume. The top panel shows Sonic, dressed as 'Rapido Azul', fighting several robots. He is wearing a green and red suit with a yellow star on his chest and a red cape. He is in a dynamic pose, kicking a robot. A speech bubble from him says, "WE CAN DO THIS, RAPIDO AZULE! USE YOUR LUCHADOR TRAINING!". The middle section contains two panels. The left panel shows Sonic being hit by a robot's foot, with a speech bubble saying, "ACK! I DON'T HAVE LUCHADOR TRAINING!". The right panel shows Sonic looking down in pain, with a speech bubble saying, "PFFT! HOW DO YOU FIGHT IN THIS THING? AND STOP CALLING ME 'RAPIDO AZULE!' I DIDN'T AGREE TO THAT!". The bottom panel shows two robots, one purple and one yellow, laughing. The purple robot says, "HAHAHA HAHAHA!", and the yellow robot says, "FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, LUCHADORS! RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!".

WE CAN DO THIS, RAPIDO AZULE! USE YOUR LUCHADOR TRAINING!

ACK! I DON'T HAVE LUCHADOR TRAINING!

PFFT! HOW DO YOU FIGHT IN THIS THING? AND STOP CALLING ME "RAPIDO AZULE!" I DIDN'T AGREE TO THAT!

HAHAHA HAHAHA!

FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, LUCHADORS!

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!

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ENOUGH, ALREADY!
IT'S ME, YOU BOLT-
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OH!
O-OF
COURSE!
GO AWAY,
BADNIK
ARMY!

PARTY'S
OVER!

HOW
DARE YOU
TURN MY OWN
MARVELOUS
MACHINES
AGAINST THEIR
MASTER?!

F-F-FORGIVE
US, DR. EGGMAN!
YOUR COPY WAS
JUST TOO
BRILLIANTLY
DESIGNED!

Y-Y-YEAH!
AND YOUR
GRAN GORDO
COSTUME
IS SO
CONVINCING!

WELL, I AM A GENIUS.
I SUPPOSE YOU TWO
DIDN'T STAND A
CHANCE.

THEN
WHERE'S
THE FAKE
EGGMAN?

HE'S
MOSTLY
BEEN
IN LAB
FOURTEEN.

WHAT?!
NO!

THAT'S WHERE I
WAS FINISHING THE
E-73! HE BETTER
NOT HAVE SCRATCHED
MY EGG BABYLON!

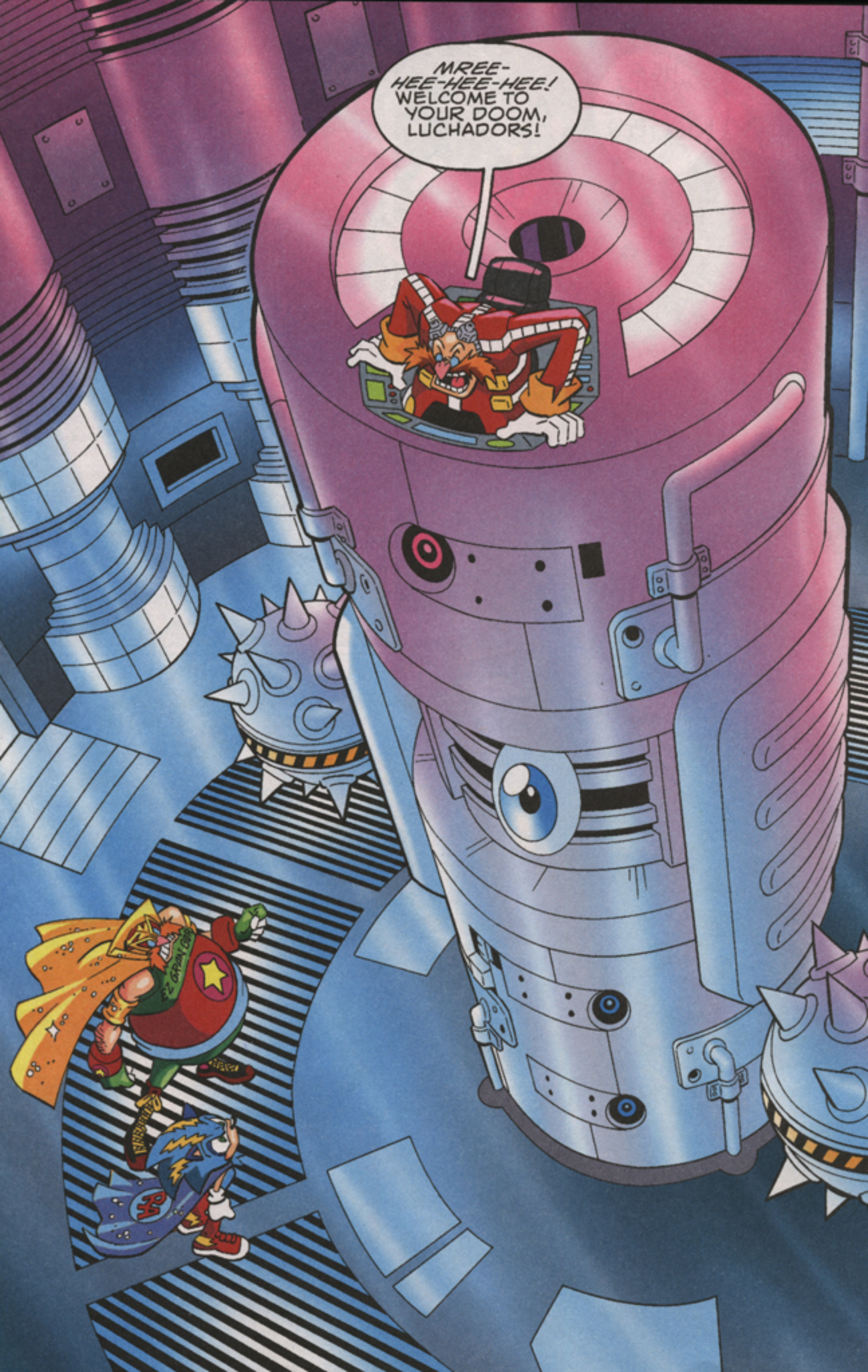
NEW
SUPER-
WEAPON,
HUH?
SOUNDS
LIKE
FUN!

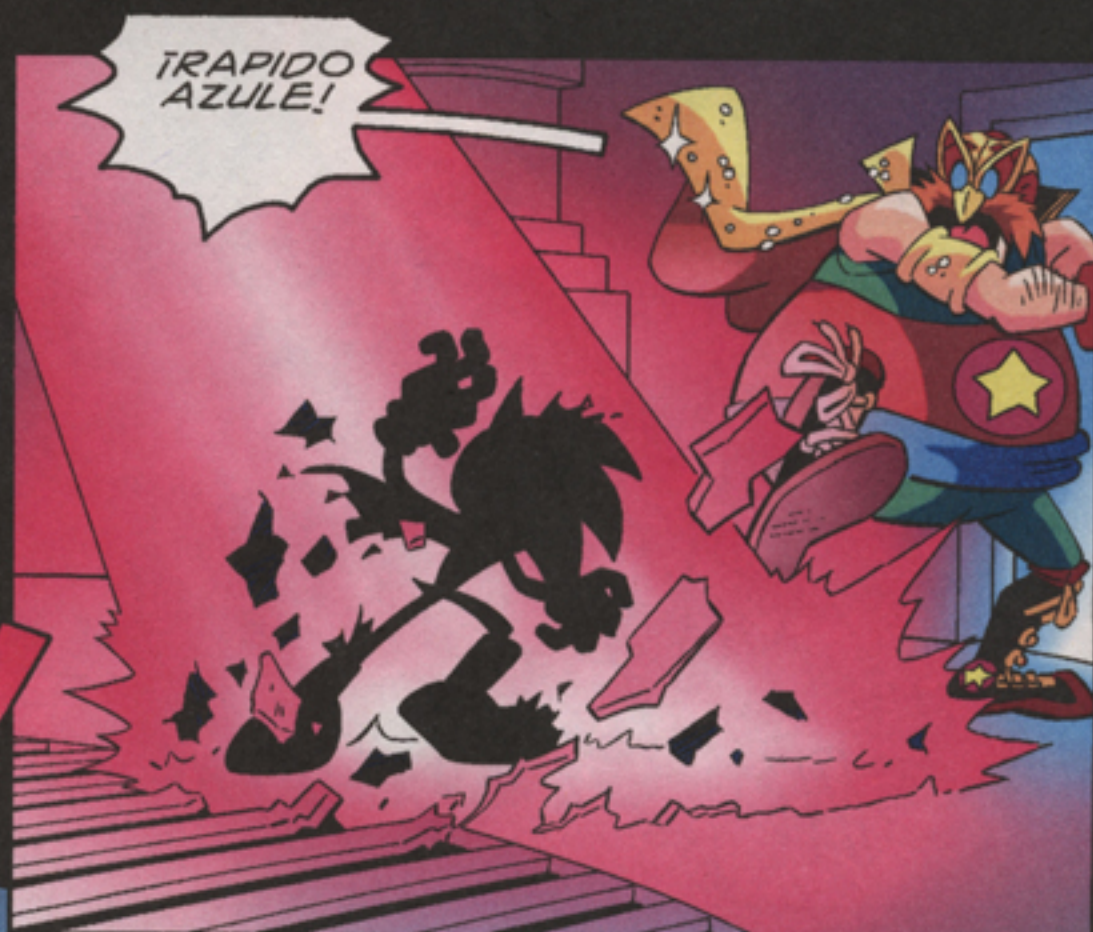
ER--I'LL TAKE IT
FROM HERE! NO NEED
FOR YOU TO SEE MY
UNFINISHED-ER-
PROJECT!

NUH-UH!
I PROMISED
TO HELP YOU.
I'M NOT
BACKING
OUT NOW.

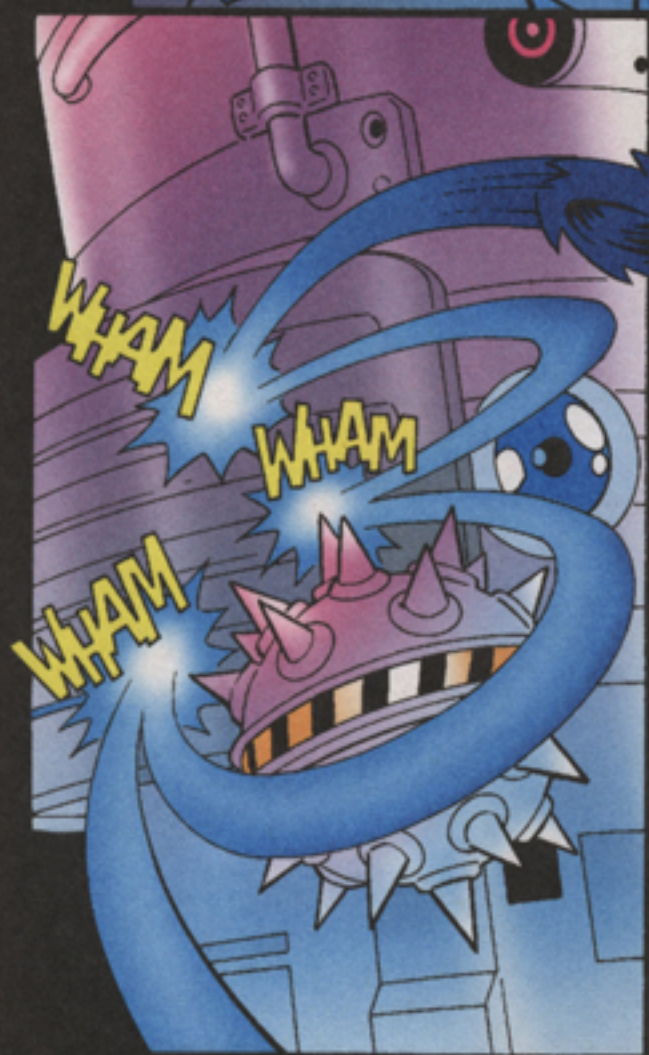
GRRR...
FINE.
BUT YOU'LL
SPOIL THE
SURPRISE FOR
YOURSELF..

MREE-
HEE-HEE-HEE!
WELCOME TO
YOUR DOOM,
LUCHADORS!



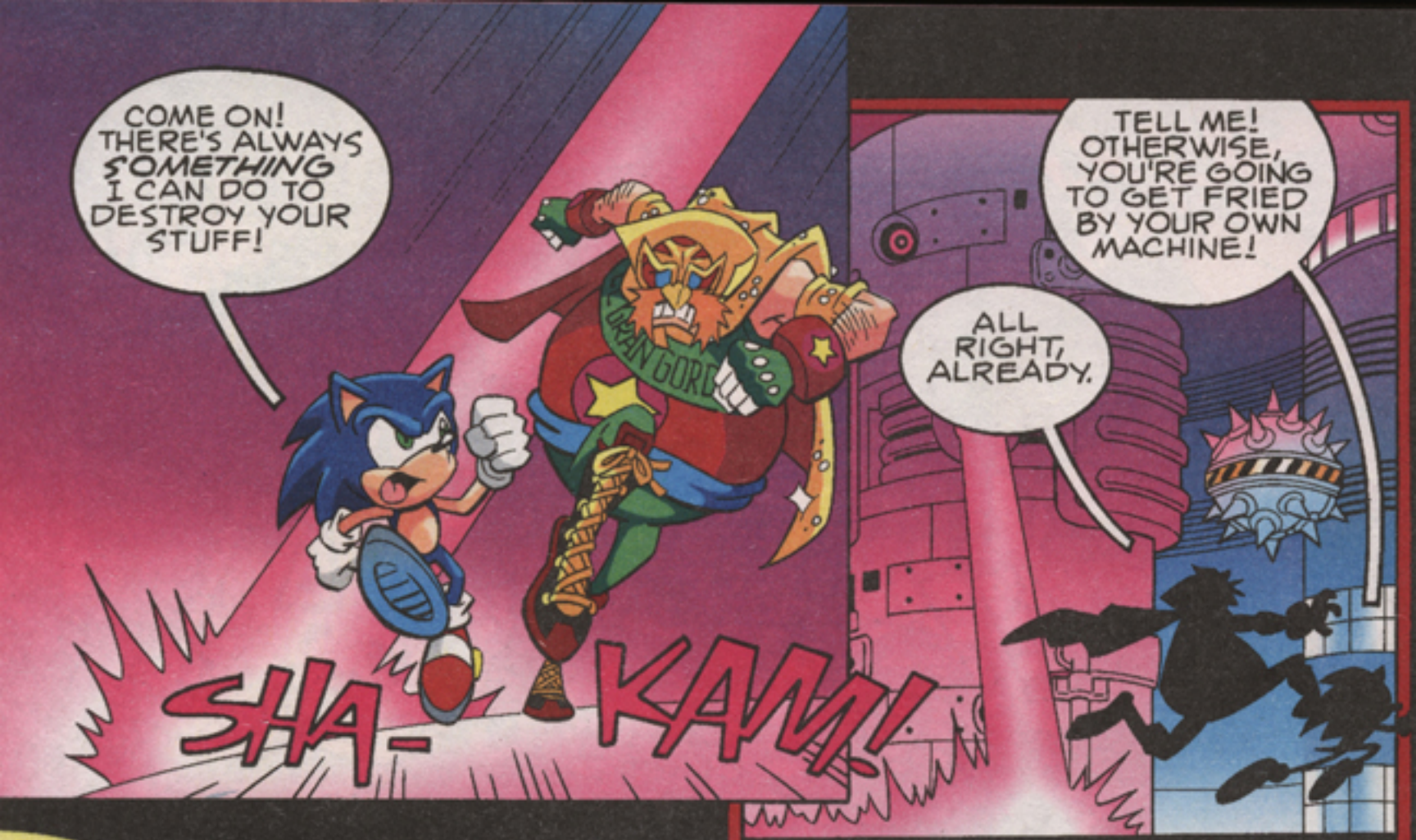


NOT
ANYMORE!
NOW LET ME
RETURN THE
FAVOR!



WOW, THAT
ARMOR'S
TOUGH! DOES
THIS THING
HAVE A
WEAKNESS?





COME ON!
THERE'S ALWAYS
SOMETHING
I CAN DO TO
DESTROY YOUR
STUFF!

TELL ME!
OTHERWISE,
YOU'RE GOING
TO GET FRIED
BY YOUR OWN
MACHINE!

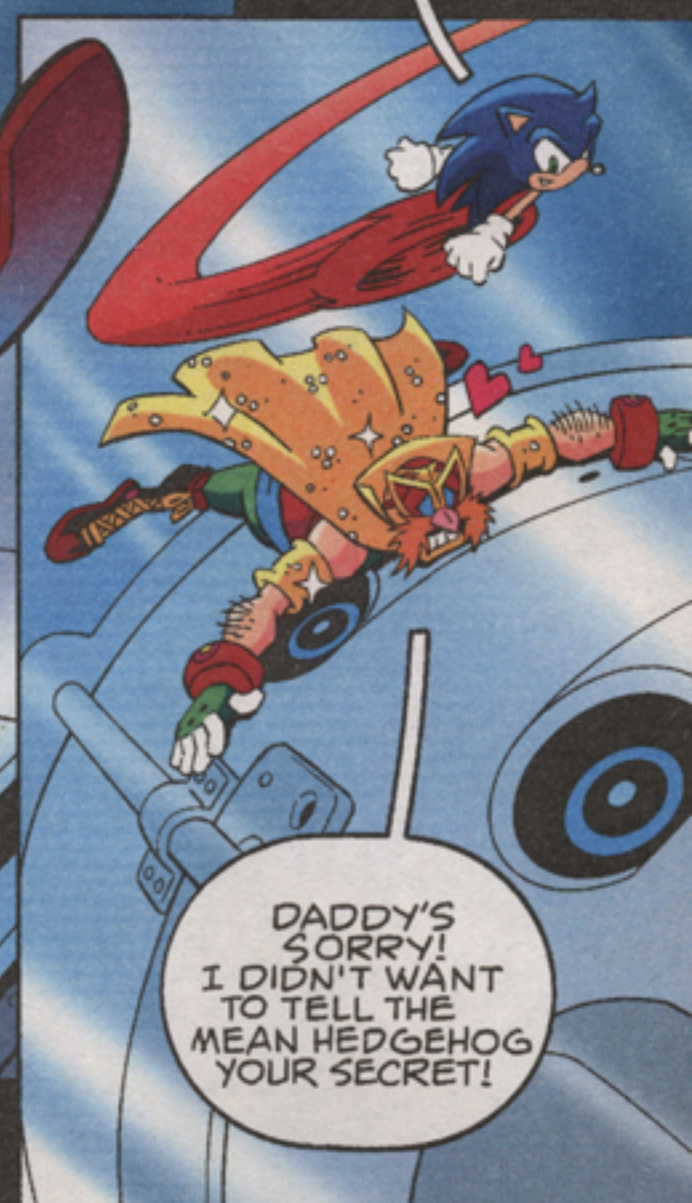
ALL
RIGHT,
ALREADY.

SHA-KAM!

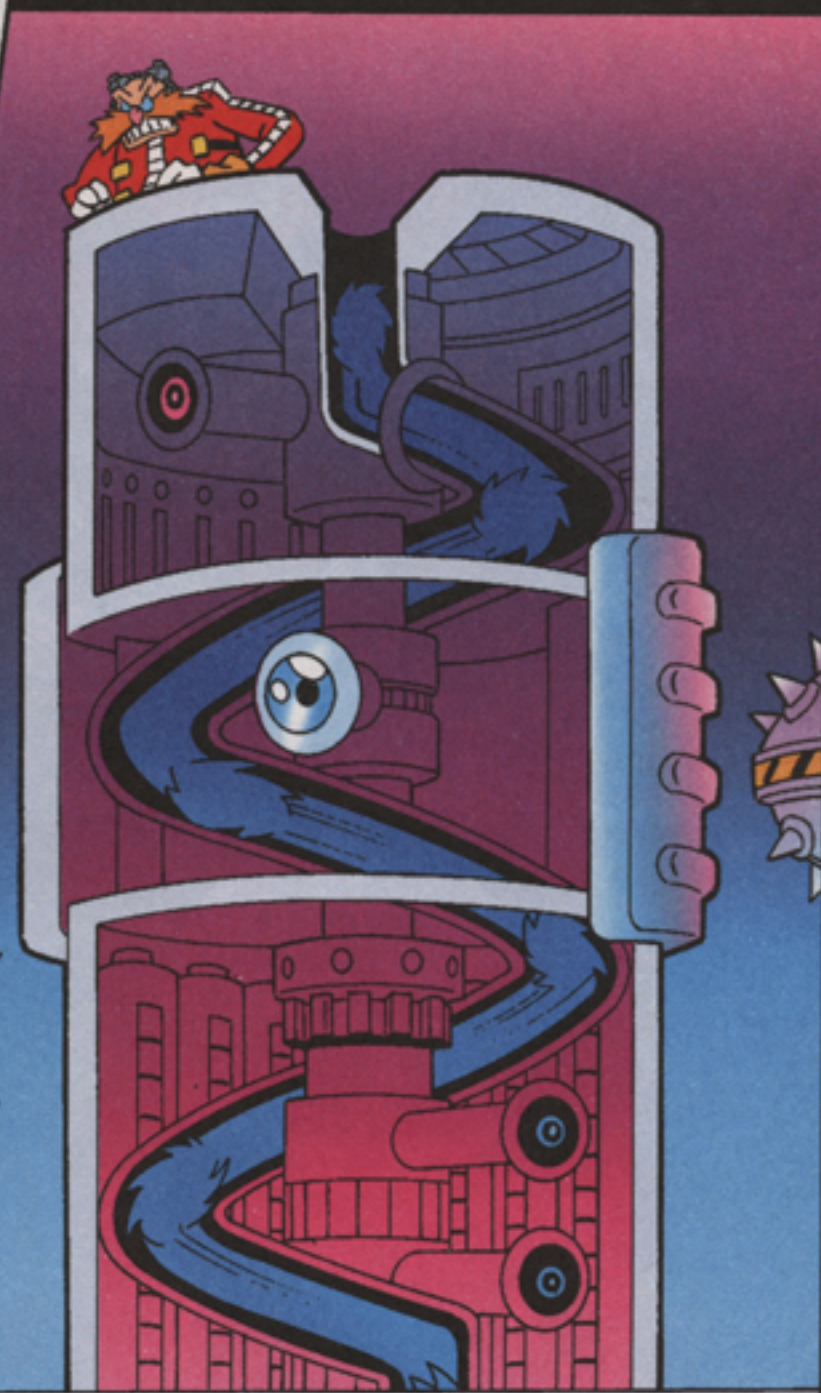
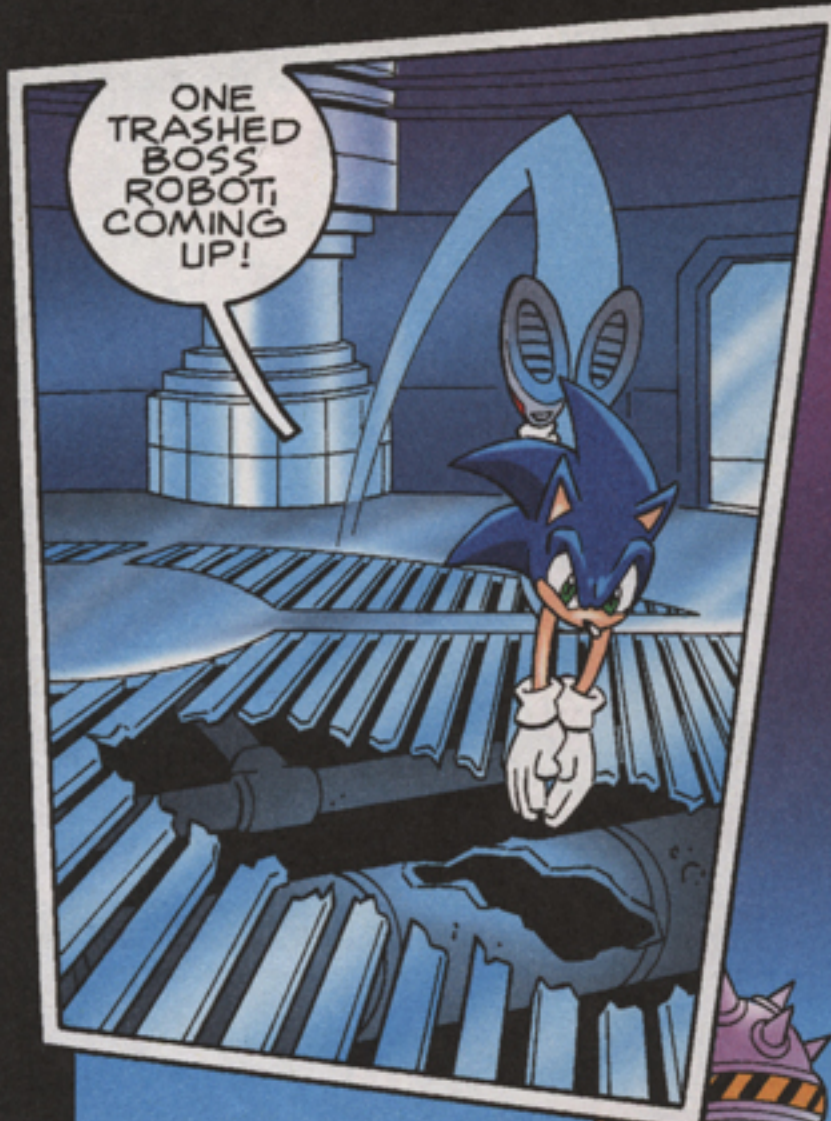


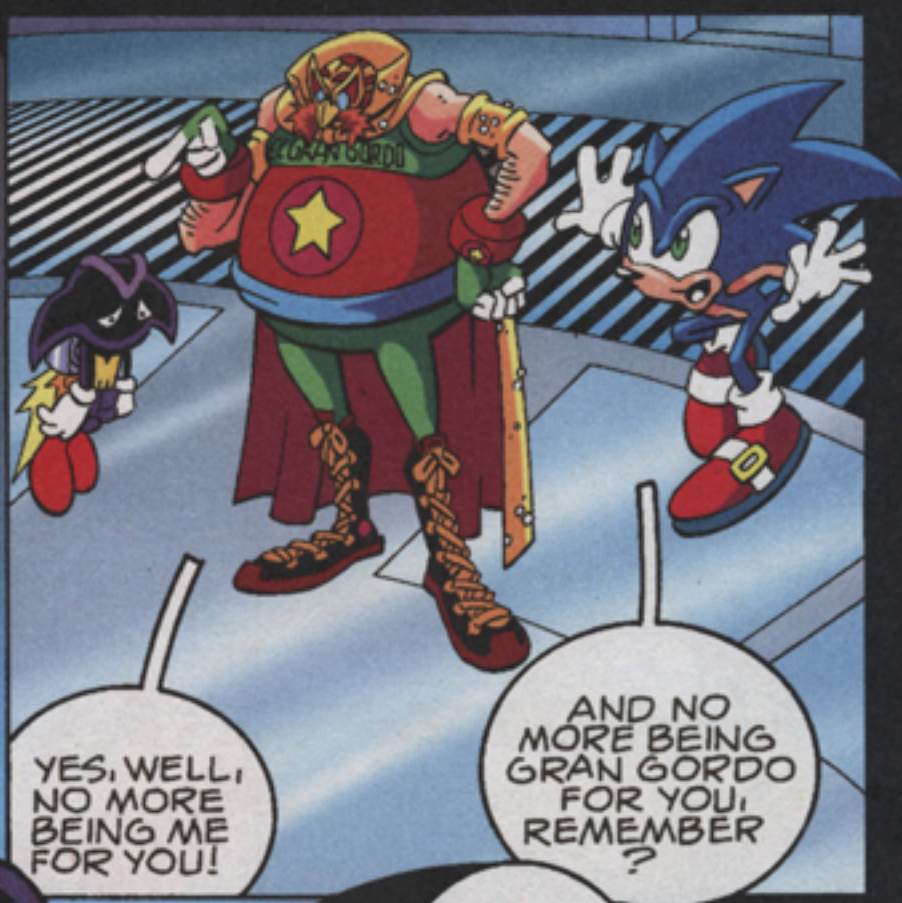
THERE'S A NETWORK
OF VENTS USED TO
COOL ITS CORE.
THEY RUN FROM THE
COMMAND CENTER
ALL THE WAY TO
THE FLOOR.

THANKS,
DOC!
THAT'S
PERFECT!



DADDY'S
SORRY!
I DIDN'T WANT
TO TELL THE
MEAN HEDGEHOG
YOUR SECRET!





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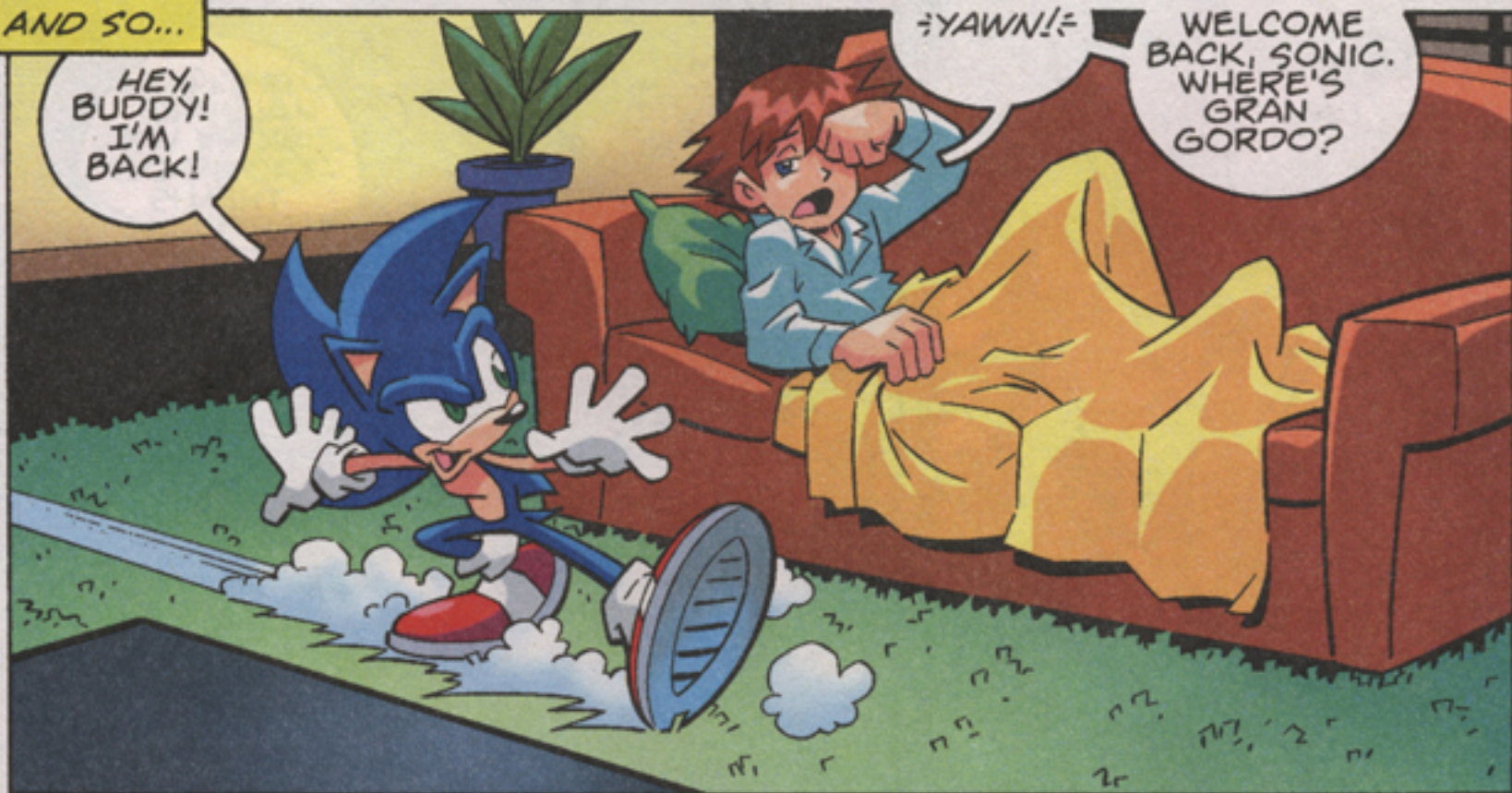
YOU CAN MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS AD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CUT UP YOUR BOOK.

AND SO...

HEY,
BUDDY!
I'M
BACK!

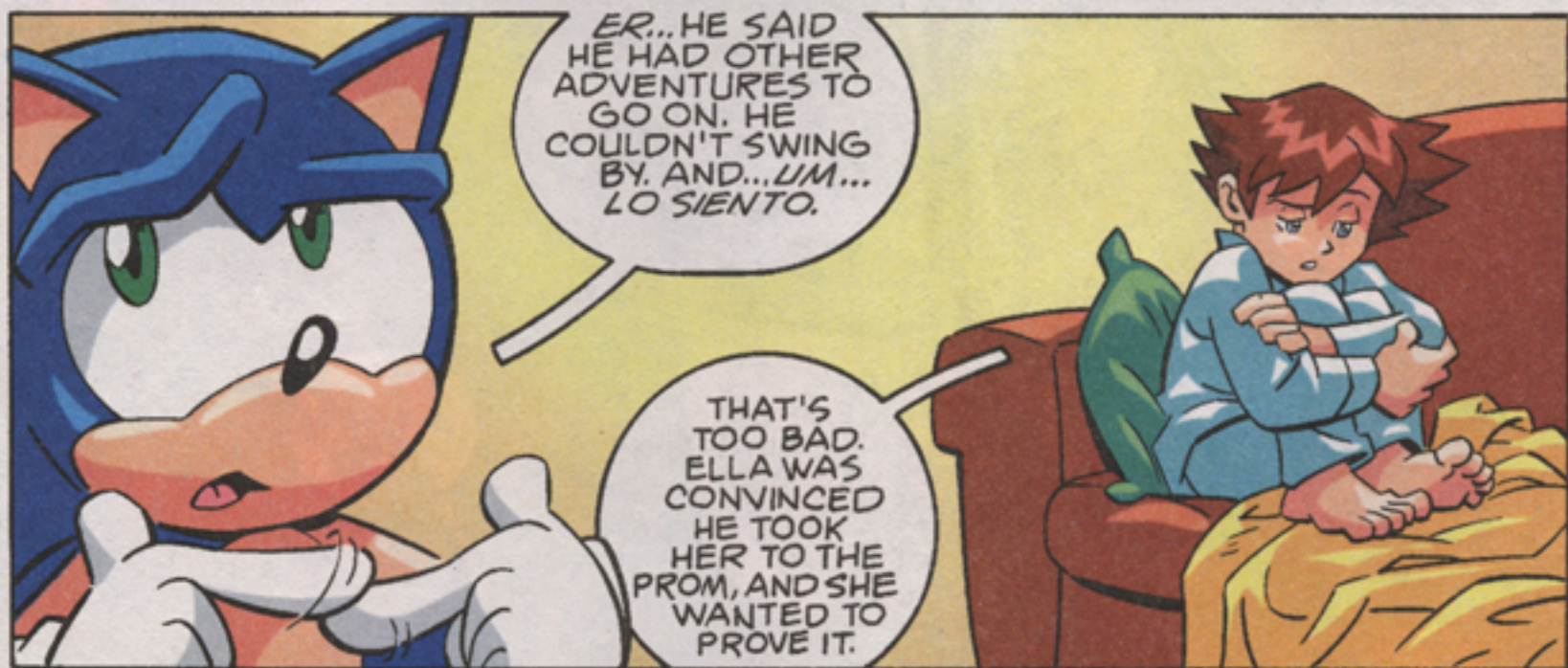
YAWN!

WELCOME
BACK, SONIC.
WHERE'S
GRAN
GORDO?



ER... HE SAID
HE HAD OTHER
ADVENTURES TO
GO ON. HE
COULDN'T SWING
BY. AND... UM...
LO SIENTO.

THAT'S
TOO BAD.
ELLA WAS
CONVINCED
HE TOOK
HER TO THE
PROM, AND SHE
WANTED TO
PROVE IT.

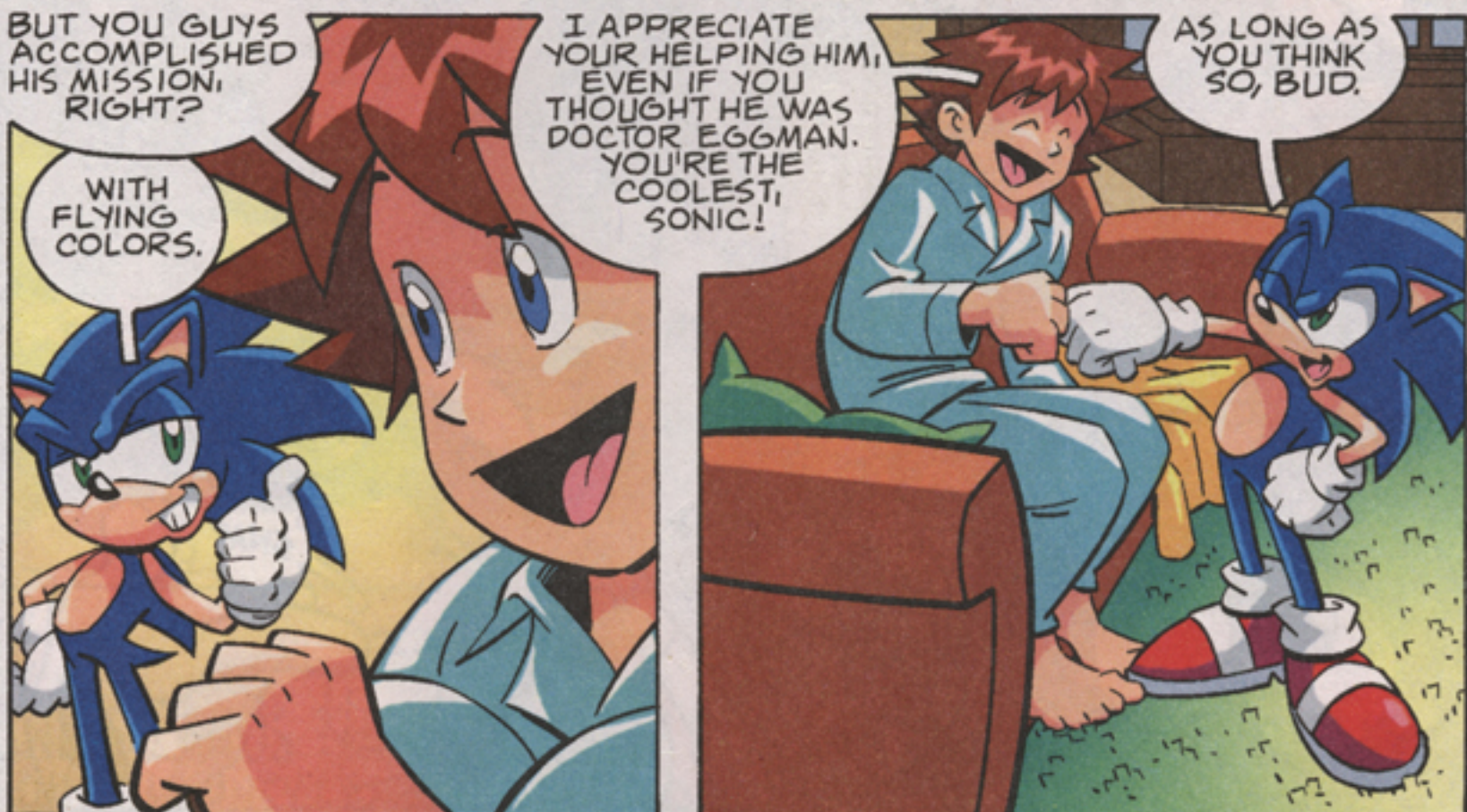


BUT YOU GUYS
ACCOMPLISHED
HIS MISSION,
RIGHT?

WITH
FLYING
COLORS.

I APPRECIATE
YOUR HELPING HIM,
EVEN IF YOU
THOUGHT HE WAS
DOCTOR EGGMAN.
YOU'RE THE
COOLEST,
SONIC!

AS LONG AS
YOU THINK
SO, BUD.





OH,
WHY CAN'T
I EVER
HAVE MY
CAKE AND
EAT IT,
TOO?

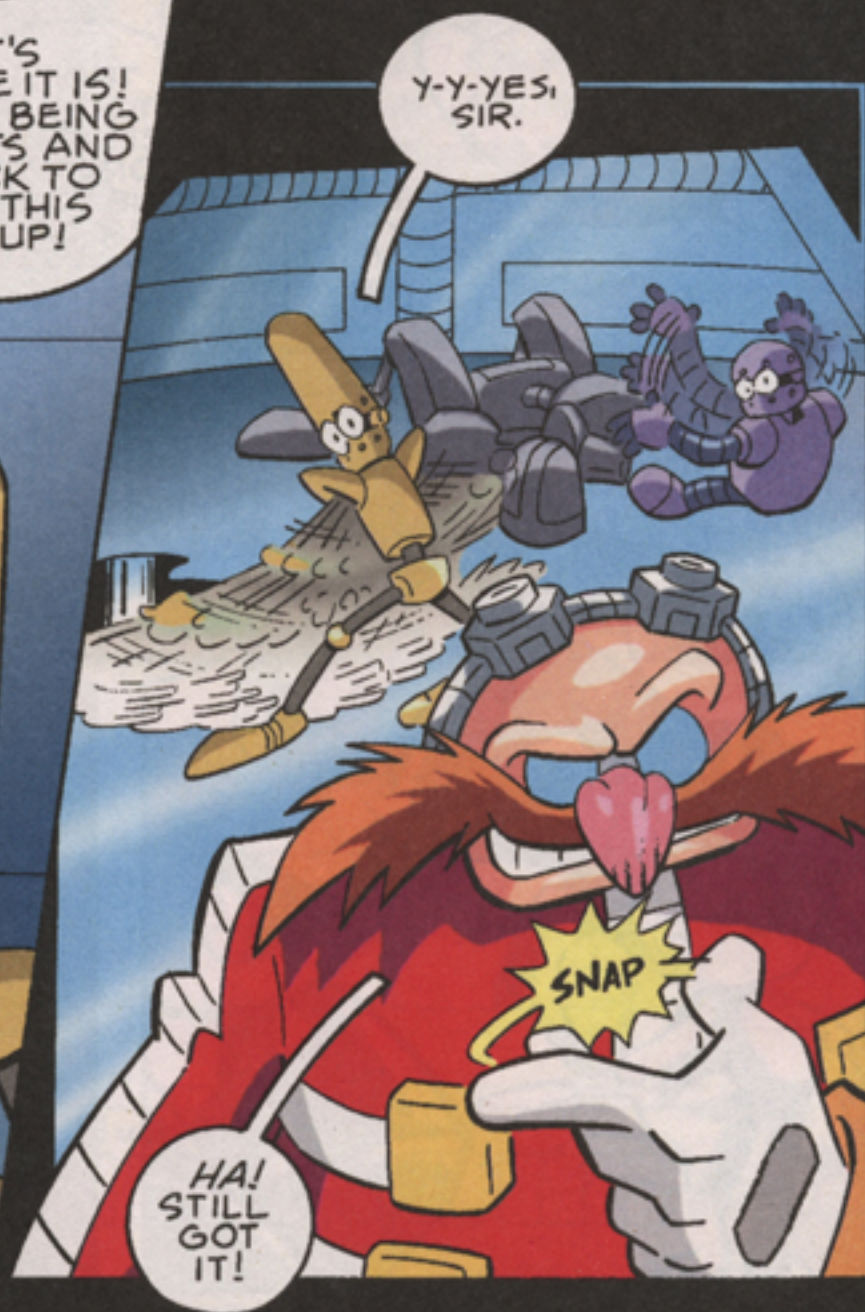


SO MUCH
FOR OUR LITTLE
VACATION.

IT'S LIKE
ALL THE
WORK WE
DIDN'T DO
THEN IS
HAPPENING
RIGHT NOW.



THAT'S
BECAUSE IT IS!
NOW QUIT BEING
CRY-ROBOTS AND
GET BACK TO
CLEANING THIS
PLACE UP!



Y-Y-Y-YES,
SIR.

HA!
STILL
GOT
IT!

SNAP



AND SO ENDS THE LEGEND OF EL GRAN GORDO...OR DOES IT?
COME BACK NEXT TIME FOR "METEOR MADNESS" IN SONIC X NUMBER 33!
AND UNTIL THEN, THERE'S ALWAYS SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND THE SONIC ARCHIVES!

SONIC X SONIC-GRAMS

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LETTERS

DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF FAN RESPONSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLY TO EACH FAN. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED LETTERS TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS ARE APPRECIATED!

Hope you all enjoyed El Gran Gordo's triumphant return!
Now it's time to turn our attention to your letters...

Dear Sonic X-Grams, I have been reading Sonic X comics and in issue #18, Sonic, Tails, and Amy were talking about Shadow, but I haven't actually seen him in the comic series. I think you should put Shadow in.

- TRISTAN C.
AIRZONA

Don't you fret, Tristan...We have big plans for Shadow! Keep reading Sonic and Sonic X for more details (SHAMELESS PLUG #1)!

Dear Sonic X-Grams, I just want to say: Shadow RULES!

Jeez...Another Shadow fan? How many of you are there out there? (hint: write in and let us know!)

Is there a Super Shadow?

Of course there's a Super Shadow..... Besides the game appearances (Sonic Adventure 2, for example), Super Shadow has made appearances in Sonic the Hedgehog issues #125 and, more recently, #169. Check out the back issue ads (SHAMELESS PLUG #2)!!

Could you come out with a Shadow mini-series?

- HUNTER B.
MAINE

No plans now for a Shadow mini-series, but again, fear not all you Shadow fans: you haven't heard the last of our favorite misunderstood hedgehog!

Dear Sonic X-Grams: Hey, peeps! OMG, you should totally make a Shadow the Hedgehog mini-series. I love him! I have his game and "Project: Shadow" from Sonic X. He may be over 50, but he's really rad.

- LACY H.
RHODE ISLAND

What is this, Red & Black Hedgehog Month? Didn't you read the other responses?! And yeah, I wouldn't mention the whole "50 years old" thing to Shad...He gets a bit testy about his age.

FAN-ART



Danny M.
From NM



Gene H.
From NJ



Ashley R.
From MS



Christian R.
From TX

Let's try and get some SONIC-related letters next time, shall we? Ah, well. In the meantime: Keep on juicin'!

NEXT ISSUE: 33



"METEOR MADNESS" - An otherwise peaceful summer barbeque at the Thorndyke's is interrupted when Chuck discovers a comet hurtling towards Earth with a Chaos Emerald inside! It's a rat race for the gem which takes our heroes all over this mad mad mad mad world! Get psyched for appearances by Big the Cat, the Chaotix, and other favorites!
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